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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1959

cc Leg. C
cc KRP

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The attention of the Committee has been directed to press announcements that Alger Hiss, former State Department official convicted of perjury in a case involving charges of spying for Russia, will be granted a passport for travel abroad. An investigator of this Committee has reviewed the application for a passport filed by Mr. Hiss and advises me that in the application Mr. Hiss denied present membership in the Communist Party; that with reference to past membership in the Communist Party he states: "I understand this need not be answered. I have repeatedly answered in the negative, under oath." The investigator of this Committee further advises that Mr. Hiss, in his application, states that he desires to travel to England, France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Although the Chairman of this Committee, Congressman Francis E. Walter, is presently in Europe, before he left he directed me to ascertain the itineraries and activities overseas of all persons to whom passports may be issued subsequent to the Kent-Briehl decision of the Supreme Court, who have been identified as members of the Communist Party.

The staff of this Committee has, accordingly, been assembling information pursuant to the Chairman's direction, and we would appreciate all information respecting Mr. Hiss's itinerary, persons with whom he may confer abroad, and his activities abroad.

Respectfully yours,

Richard Arens

Richard Arens
Staff Director.

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